

August 2004

Free



HUB

DIGITAL

LIVING

Volume 17 Number 8

Digital *Road* *Trip*

Digital photography
tutorial 7

Compact
MP3 players

Photo Contest
Win a Lexmark X6500



PAPER

Inside House

On the Move

Off the Mind

Digital Living

www.hubcanada.com

Contents

August 2004

Letter from the Editor 4

First Dance 5

On the MoveChild friendly handheld travels well
Leapster gets you into Leap Frog trapsCD-RW iMacs 10
Digital Photography Special 7

Working with an image editor 11-12

Digital Living
Total Camera Control 14

Reviews: Riddikulus, Spain Man 2

Commerce
Letter of the month 4

Photo space 15

New this Month
More Editorial content throughout

Including product news and reviews in all editions following page 8

www.hubcentral.com

Editorial



Andrew Morris-Crisp

On a recent late-night bus ride, returning home after a trip to Southampton Diner to speak at my newest venue [welcome days] I decided upon writing that the features in my *Smart Bus* sidebar SP were a dead waste of experience as the availability of Wi-Fi access points.

Armed with an older model Pocket PC and an EDU 11b CF card and NetStumbler, a popular application with Wi-Fi hackers [USA "war-chatters" or "war-troopers"], even without any booster equipment, I watched to my surprise, access points kept popping up on screen. In the half hour ride, much of which was highway driving, I captured eighty-five 802.11 access points. I even managed to log on to one briefly at a stoplight to receive email headers before we moved on.

Of the 80 access points, only 15 had any kind of security implemented at all, according to NetStumbler. Even if only ten of the best-known networks we passed were secured, from the perspective of someone who just wants to get connected to check email or view sites online on a laptop using a program, unsecured networks are great but the simple fact of the matter is that not everyone's wireless is secure. An unsecured network is open data to those who may want to gain access for nefarious purposes. Network network owners interested in sharing their network as an act of goodwill should look to the free firewall programs available to monitor those connecting from outside. Unsharing owners should lock down their network, only allowing those with the correct encryption key to connect.

Many security mechanisms are turned off by default in wireless routers to aid the setup process. Enabling WEP [wired equivalent privacy] is usually a simple matter of clicking a check box and punching in an alphanumeric encryption key.

WEP is not perfect [as was demonstrated by a research group at the University of California at Berkeley] but it is at least a good start for home networks.

— Andrew Morris-Crisp, Editor

and hankering writer: When my father was a kid in the 1960s, his family vacations were comprised of endless arguments and backseat bickering with his sister. My little sister does not know how lucky she is. As she looks back on the family road trips, armed with her MP3/CD player, I'm engrossed in a DVD I'm watching on my laptop, which is conveniently connected to the van's battery. I may go on vacation to escape the daily grind, but my gadgets? They come along for the ride.

Gregory Frantz writer: I differently take a digital camera that lets me pick and choose my best shots on location. I also have a cell phone, because I give out my number publicly so that travel arrangements can be done, whether [or at any other time]. And regular updates in the computer almost every day of my life [developing, e-mailing, accounting, writing courses] so my vacation is a time to break free.

Robert Pausch writer: Some are the vacations where I tag two travel guides [one for the city and another for the general area], a variety of road and tourist maps, my itinerary and a collection of tourist board brochures. All this documentation has now been replaced by a handycam and ultra-light 4.16 laptop, with wireless modem, which weighs less and takes up less space in my travel bag than those books and documents.

Letter of the Month

The winner of this month's letter contest is Joseph S. King.

Unplugged all the way. Vacation time by definition is a time to get away from work, chill out, relax. In our mobile workplace and daily lives we are inundated with gadgets that require our attention. As humans we are not programmed to run constantly like a machine. Vacation time is the ideal time to stay enough to enough and to voluntarily disconnect from our work and worries world. Enjoy your long lost vacation such as the quietness of a forest; the smell of the ocean breeze or the sight of a soaring eagle. Use your instincts. Forget the GPS unit, use a compass. Detach the cell phone, make a passport, leave the laptop, never look. Your vacation will be over soon enough and then the "readiness" will return.

For your submission, Joseph won the **Ultimate Dell Print Prizes Give Away** from Bell Canada. There are still two more Dell Print Prizes prizes to be won as keep them coming.

This month, in addition to feedback on the issue, tell us how concerned are you about online privacy and security. Drop us a line at letters@hubnetmedia.com to mark the one-year anniversary of Dell Inc.'s poster series, the winner will receive the **Ultimate Dell Print Prizes Give Away**, a Dell 8400 All-in-One Injet Printer, a high-end printer, scanner, and PC-free colour copier with PC file capturing, two extra ink cartridges [black and colour], a 1 m USB 2.0 cable, and a pack of Dell Premium Inkjet paper for full math prints.



HUB

EDITORIAL	LIVING
Volume 1P (January - II)	
Editorial	Andrew Morris-Crisp amorriscrisp@hubnetmedia.com
Co-Editor	Gregor Frantz
Advertising Editors	Deasy Tardio Brian Cuthbertson Deasy Tardio
Art Director	Deasy Tardio

Advertising Sales

ADVERTISING	Dave Tardio davetardio@hubnetmedia.com
DATA/TELEMARKETING	Michelle Pavao michelle.pavao@hubnetmedia.com
Corporate Account Manager	Ralph Thompson ralph.thompson@hubnetmedia.com
DISPLAY	Dave Tardio davetardio@hubnetmedia.com
DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Dave Tardio davetardio@hubnetmedia.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

DISPLAY ADVERTISING	Ed Lassman ed.lassman@hubnetmedia.com
---------------------	--

Ultimate notebook meets virtual office



In our search for the perfect combination of size and performance, we came up with the X-note series - notebooks that make no compromises. Starting with an Intel Centrino processor, we added one of the brightest LCD screens on the market, a 10-hour extended life battery* and a Quad Band wireless antenna, all packed into an ultra slim titanium and carbon fibre package that weighs a mere 2.4 kgs.

Now, virtual office doesn't have to mean virtual performance.



www.lg.com

*With optional battery. ©2005 LG Electronics Inc. Microsoft, Microsoft Word, Windows, Internet Explorer and Outlook are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

Apple (www.apple.ca) has updated its flat-panel lineup with three new models, including a 30-inch display, which it says is the largest high-resolution LCD available. The 30-inch Apple Cinema HD has a 2,560x1,600 pixel resolution and a wide range of built-in connecting options: two FireWire and two DVI 2.0 ports and 80 streams. New 20-inch and 23-inch models were also introduced. All three have a 16:10 aspect ratio and sport a new look with a thin silver frame bezel and curved base, similar to the design of the latest PowerMac G4 models. The 20-inch and 23-inch displays are available for a suggested retail price of \$1,799 and \$2,799 respectively. The 30-inch display will be available in August for \$4,999.



30-inch Apple Cinema HD display

The lukewarm reception to Nokia's original N-Gage game deck leaves less phone hasn't dimmed Fido (www.fido.ca). The one less service provider has announced that it is the exclusive Canadian carrier of the N-Gage QD. The new N-Gage device is more compact than the original, is said to address usability issues related to the phone and now includes a speakerphone function. Like the original, built-in Bluetooth allows for wireless gaming with opponents in close proximity or play online by connecting to a wireless data network. It also includes PDA functions and wireless email. The N-Gage QD from Fido is \$250 (discounts available with service contract) and comes with a Teng Hawk's Pro Skater game card.



Nokia N-Gage QD



With his aim for enveloping the mundane — from citrus peels to well-thumbed — it was only a matter of time before interior and exterior design star Philippe Starck turned his eye to the desktop. The result is a sleek new mouse for Microsoft (www.microsoft.ca). The Starck-designed optical mouse has a silver finish, with the two buttons extending the length of the mouse, divided by a lighted stripe (choice of orange or blue) with a scroll wheel at the top. The mouse body is symmetrical, so can be used in either hand. The Special Mouse by Starck will be available at the end of August for an estimated retail price of \$54.95.

Special Mouse by Starck

As computer and PDA screens rely increasingly on graphics, using those devices becomes more challenging for visually impaired users. One Canadian company, Roviole (www.roviole.com), is developing an outline of high-tech products specifically for this market. The company says its latest device, Maximo, is "the first mainstream handheld PC for the blind and visually impaired." The device is built on Hewlett-Packard's iPAQ Pocket PC (ARM10 processor and features text-to-speech technology and a tactile keyboard membrane).

Over the touch screen that doesn't rely on any key input, it incorporates Bluetooth and can be used with an external keyboard (Bluetooth or standard) if desired. The Maximo is expected to ship in September for an introductory price of \$1,200, and will be available through its network of resellers. Roviole's other high-tech innovations include Trackbar, a GPS-based navigation and mapping product for the visually impaired.

Maximo: PDA for visually impaired

On the Move

Child-friendly handheld travels well

Leaptop

Leap Frog; www.leapfrog.ca

For ages 4-8

Estimated retail price: \$120 (LeapPad), \$25-\$40 (cartridges)

Of the many digital gadgets devised to entertain children, LeapFrog's LeapPad has been popular with parents for its educational edge. It's a sort of tray into which coil-bound LeapPad books are placed and read aloud. It can start its function at the user's pace by interacting with the enhanced stylus—a great interaction tool for use at home.

But what if you're planning a road trip or vacation that involves time spent at planes or airports? Enter Leaptop, Leap Frog's travel-friendly gamepad. While its banking shape, it looks like an over-sized N-Gage. It has a 2.8-inch, touch-sensitive, color LCD, infrared stylus, speaker, volume controls, navigation rocker and control buttons, a phone jack (handy for travel), and cartridge slot. Instead of books, users insert cartridges and interact with the on-screen animation. Depending on the cartridge, the content can include educational games, e-books, digital art projects, and interactive videos.

Our product testers were Giuliana, 6, and Cristina, 4, who tried two cartridges, the car game title that ships with the Leaptop and Dora the Explorer which is available separately. Both girls are familiar with computers and the LeapPad, so were able to turn the Leaptop on and start playing immediately. They interacted with it in different ways—Giuliana was quiet and very focused while Cristina talked along with the game and gave updates on her progress—but both were very eager to play, even after testing the Leaptop for a month.



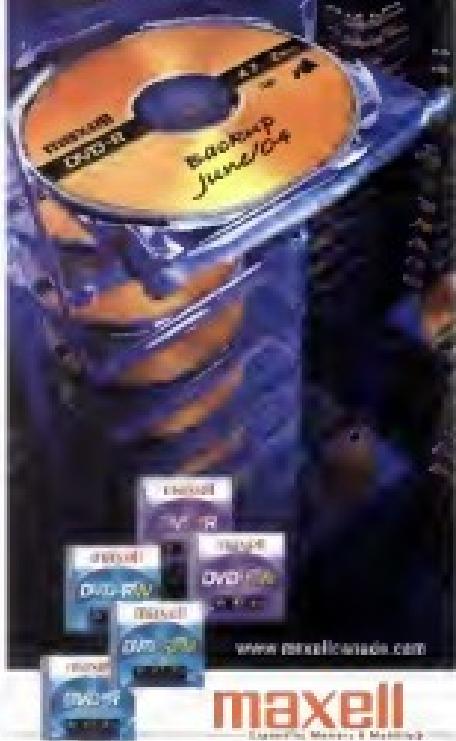
Giuliana only complained once that the screen was not readable our drivers and that the Home and Help buttons were side-by-side and it was hard to tell the difference between them.

The Leaptop runs on four AA batteries (which, obviously, can only be recharged with a screwdriver), so run time depends on the quantity of batteries used. Judging by the enthusiastic play of our product testers, investing in rechargeable batteries would be wise.

At \$25 to \$40 each, the cartridges are pricier than the LeapPad books, but they do pack in a variety of games that level themselves to reflecting. In addition to the cartridges tested, Leaptop titles include Springfield SquarePants, Mr. Potato's Learn to Draw and Write, The Letter Factory, as well as Phonics 1, Grade 1, and Kindergarten.

By Megan Johnson, with testing by Cristina and Giuliana Pelizzetti

► Data streams relentlessly.
Maxell captures it seamlessly.



Known for developing some of the most advanced media technologies in the world, Maxell provides a seamless solution for the never-ending task of data storage. Maxell's full line of DVDs consistently deliver optimum performance and maximum reliability in every format on the market. Plus, Maxell offers 24/7/365 tech support and limited lifetime warranties.

Recordable Media • Portable Energy
Data Storage • Technological Partnerships



Summer is upon us, the perfect time to bundle everyone into the car for a road trip.

In a trip revolving around technology, power and planning are the order of the day. But it is that every power bar and extension cord I can lay hands on we put to use the day before departure.

The planning element is more of a sticking point, as we have still yet to decide where the road trip is going to take us. The regional Metra van to head out to Fredericton, NB which claims itself as the only fully wireless Internet-enabled city in Canada. Apparently, everyone in the city and any passerby through can log on at just about anywhere in the city. Huh?—though I'm sure there are some dead zones. Still, it sounds like a geek nirvana. Message restrictions on the borrowed Mini Cooper (boosted that trip idea from Toronto, ON to Fredericton, NB in 2882.6 km taking the shortest possible route, according to Microsoft Streets & Maps). The problem with planning a trip that puts so much focus on technology—is navigation, as a remote connection to the office and as an enroute travel planner—is that how the technology will be used on the road isn't completely clear until you're actually on the road, using it. The morning of our departure, Kingston, ON was declared open air destination.

MINI Cooper

\$25,500 www.mini.ca

While there's nothing terribly high tech about the car as driven—no navigation system (though one is available as an option), no DVD player and stereo combination, no OnStar or similar service—the MINI proved to be the consummate road trip vehicle... at least for two people. It was comfortable, quite quick with a surprisingly large amount of room for our planned fuel efficient to leave [6.7L / 100 km highway]. It also seems to command a lot of attention on the road. Received the series of all hand gestures while driving in Toronto, the non-verbal thunderclap. Said thunderclap was accompanied with vigorous honking. I was also greeted by various Kingpinsers at just about every tourist destination and gas station we stopped at.

At \$27,100, I found the car to be very comfortable. However, with the seats all the way back, the possibility for back seat passengers with legs thicker than about half an inch disappears. Unless they're willing to sit cross-legged.

Belkin Navigation System

\$529.79 (from \$899.99) www.belkin.com

The Belkin Bluetooth GPS receiver is an excellent concept and was among the devices accompanying us on the road trip that didn't prove problematic. The Belkin unit was a bit of a challenge to set up, though, as the

Bluetooth auto. Unfortunately, the unit is programming sponsored by the software that ships with it.

Also, while the battery life of the GPS receiver held up far closer to the 20 hours promised, the connecting device drew more power by using Bluetooth and hence, don't last as long. On the road, power consumption, pressure and what users gain by not having to carry wires all around the car is offset somewhat by the shorter battery life of the device connecting to it.

The PC and Pocket PC versions of Belkin's navigation software share almost exactly the same functionality. The only noticeable difference are in the larger screen and storage capacity for maps on a PC.

The navigation software offers up the requisite points of interest, public transportation hubs and route ATMs. To plot a course, users choose a state, province or city along with a radius [between 40 and 200 km]. From the chosen point, Kingston and 200 km of the surrounding area required about 1.1 MB on the Pocket PC; as the user drives the city, the more space required. I would much rather be offered the option to choose a bank route then install the required parts of the map. Even on the relatively short 235 km journey, we ran out of map data just before entering Kingston and chose to navigate the last about 15 km analog-style rather than pull over and load new maps into the Pocket PC.

Once the GPS unit looks on to a signal, which took 10-15 seconds on average with a weak signal, the software does a good job of navigating, affording plenty of advance warning for turns, bends in the road, etc., and balances the warnings for highway, city and off-road driving.

Dell Axim X50

\$379 as equipped www.dell.ca

Integrated Bluetooth and Wi-Fi (802.11a/b) included we like, 512 MB of total storage for applications and data we chose. Still, with a price tag under \$400 and with similarly equipped Pocket PCs when clicking in at time that, the extra cash users are all but required to lay down for more storage space in the form of a Secure Digital (SD) card becomes easier to swallow. The occasional hang or complete crash of the hands of the current Microsoft Windows Mobile 2003 second edition operating system (OS) never factored.

With an obvious focus on various Internet applications in the newest batch of Pocket PC personal digital assistants (PDAs), networking applications in the latest incarnation of the OS are more easily accessed and are generally improved though still not perfect, requiring at least a moderate knowledge of networking to be effective.

The X50 has a spring-loaded scroll wheel, replacing the scroll

Digital Road Trip



THANK YOU!

For making Echo Online the 2004 Consumers' Choice Award winner in the category of Internet Service Provider!



Unlimited from
Internet
Access

\$8.30*
per month

Features:

- o 56K V.90 Dial-Up Access
- o 1 E-Mail Address
- o 10Mb WebSpace
- o Free WebMail Access

**A DSL Modem and a
month of DSL Service!**

Only **\$69.95****
plus tax



Features:

- o 3MB DSL ACCESS
- o 10Mb WebSpace
- o 5 E-Mail Addresses
- o FREE 20 hours of Dial-Up
- o Recertified GNET DSL Modem with 60 day warranty.
- o No Commitments!
- o Residential Service only.

What are you waiting for?

Call us today! 416-385-0459

www.eol.ca or sales@eol.ca



*Based on a 12 month package of \$99.95. Taxes, taxes, taxes! Minimum 12 month contract required. **Call us now for our limited time offer. Taxes not included. 20 hrs. excludes non-certified modems. Where applicable, taxes apply.

Serving the GTA Since 1993